ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a class of embodiments, the invention is an open computing system (e.g., a PC) in which a protected, closed subsystem is embedded. The closed subsystem typically includes multiple parts that ensure that content protection keys and protected content are never revealed outside the closed subsystem. Content (e.g., high-definition digital video) that enters the closed subsystem (and is typically decrypted and re-encrypted within the closed subsystem) is afforded a similar level of protection within the open system as can be obtained in standalone closed systems. Other aspects of the invention are methods for protecting content within an open computing system, a closed system (or disk drive thereof) configured to be embedded in an open computing system, and circuitry configured to be embedded in an open computing system for combining the output of a closed subsystem with other output (e.g., graphics and/or audio output) of the open computing system.